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October 24, 2007

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
205 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Rogers  
133 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Eshoo and Mr. Rogers:

On behalf of our more than 20,000 individual members and over 350 corporate members that collectively represent organizations employing millions of people, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is writing to endorse H.R. 3800, the *Promoting Health Information Technology Act*, and to strongly urge you to complete action on this comprehensive piece of health information technology legislation prior to the adjournment of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

HIMSS endorses this legislation subject to the following additions and clarifications that:

- the “partnership” language in Sec. 3003 is intended to be AHIC 2.0 which is focused on the sequence of activities from issue identification (use case) to adoption and is not duplicative of CCHIT or HITSP;
- the “partnership” language in Section 3003 addressing the development of a body to implement HIT standards should specifically include the recognition of the existing standards developed by the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) and certification requirements established by the Certification Commission for Health IT (CCHIT);
- the privacy and security provisions in Section 3012 will be deleted from this legislation and handled in separate legislation, and therefore, those concerns need not be raised at this time;
- the authors of the bill will be more inclusive of key private sector membership constituencies including specific reference to **Healthcare** IT vendors and other stakeholders directly affected by the legislation and the authors are flexible on the membership requirements to make them “less governmental”; and
- the legislation would codify AHIC 1.0 as the governmental body that deals with the policy issues that are government’s responsibility including but not limited to, security and privacy policies, and interoperability use-cases necessary to support federal programs that require the sharing or exchange of health information.

Finally, HIMSS believes that with the above clarifications, this legislation is consistent with our Board-approved 2007 Legislative Principles and we strongly encourage you to pass this legislation. We look forward to working with you however we can to reconcile a final bill that will help in the transformation of healthcare for all Americans. Thank you for your leadership and dedication on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

H. Stephen Lieber, CAE  
President & CEO